

**In the Claims:**

1. (currently amended). An isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein capable of binding to histamine or serotonin with a dissociation constant of less than  $10^{-7}M$ , wherein said isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein

i) comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or an amino acid sequence having at least 90% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;

ii) and which has a binding site comprising amino acid residues isoleucine at position I, tryptophan at position II, aspartate at position III and glutamate at position IV wherein residues I to IV are positioned at residues 139, 71, 67 and 112 in SEQ ID NO: 4 ~~SEQ ID NO: 4~~ or are positioned in a functionally equivalent complementarity of shape in an amino acid sequence having at least 90% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

2-3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended). An isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein according to claim 1, wherein said binding site additionally comprises ~~comprising~~ at residue V, a tyrosine residue, wherein residue V is positioned at residue 131 in SEQ ID NO: 4.

5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented). An isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein according to claim 1 wherein said protein is stabilised by either or both of the disulphide bridges formed between cysteines 179 and 151 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

7-9. (canceled).

10. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 1 that comprises a synthetic protein.

11-17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 1 produced by recombinant DNA technology.

19-20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 1 that is derived from blood-feeding ectoparasites, spiders, scorpions or snakes and venomous animals.

22. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 21 that is derived from ticks.

23. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 22 that is derived from Ixodid ticks.

24. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 23 that is derived from *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus*, *D. reticulatus*, *Amblyomma variegatum*, *Boophilus microplus* or *Ixodes hexagonus*.

25-28. (canceled).

29. (previously presented). The isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein of claim 1 that is bound to a support.

30. (previously presented). A composition comprising an isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein according to claim 1.

31. (previously presented). A composition according to claim 30 additionally comprising serotonin.

32. (previously presented). A composition according to claim 31 additionally comprising a cysteinyl leukotriene.

33. (canceled).

34. (currently amended). A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ a disease condition related to a vasoactive amine, wherein said disease condition is allergic asthma, said method comprising administering an isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein according to

claim 1 to a human or animal, wherein said administering treats ~~or prevents~~ said disease condition.

35-53. (canceled).

54. (new). An isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein capable of binding to histamine or serotonin with a dissociation constant of less than  $10^{-7}$ M, wherein said isolated histamine or serotonin binding protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.